



*Senator  
Bill Stouffer*

**DISTRICT 21**

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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## **The Stouffer Report: Surplus Property Saves Money for Rural Missouri**

When you walk into a school building, do you ever wonder where everything comes from? When you walk past the computer lab, do you ever ask how the school can afford so many computers? They were not bought with gift cards, that is for sure.

Visit a local high school's vo-tech department or shop class and look at their welding machines, hand tools and nail guns. I can assure you that not all of that equipment was ordered out of a department store catalog. No, in most cases, these purchases were made possible by the help of the [Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property](#) (MOSASP) program.

The program allows eligible nonfederal organizations to receive property that the government no longer needs. MOSASP gets its property from the federal government and sends it out where it is needed. Agencies that are eligible for the property are certain public agencies, not-for-profit educational and public health activities and agencies that serve the homeless, the needy and the elderly.

MOSASP has been beneficial to our state for many years. Throughout this time, it has provided schools with computers, sold low cost equipment to farmers and provided food during times of emergencies. The program has done a lot for our rural communities. In light of the current economic hardships we are all facing, funding has been reduced and changes are being made to the program. The property is being relocated and downsized, dropping from 10 to three acres.

The program has numerous success stories. It has provided trailers to make office space for a disabilities organization and helped several colleges and universities, including the University of Missouri and the

College of the Ozarks. It has also provided generators to communities who lost power during severe weather. As far as our district goes, MOSASP has been very helpful. In Marshall, the program has provided numerous supplies to the high school technology department. The department has received spotlights for its video studio, cabinets, a soldering iron kit, hand tools, fire extinguishers and much more — all at low costs, saving the school thousands of dollars.

If you think numbers speak louder than words, I have those, too. A school in Clay County was in need of desks, but could not afford them at a price of at least \$100 per desk. Thanks to MOSASP, they were able to purchase these nearly-new desks at \$25 per desk, saving over \$170,000.

As the program moves to its new location, it is making the best of the situation. It is important to continue to support the program, a great asset to our state as well as our district that provides many organizations with property they may not be able to afford otherwise. We need to take full advantage of the MOSASP program. In a time when we are all looking to save, the program is a great way to get more for less.

The Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property is currently located at 117 N. Riverside Dr. in Jefferson City. The new location is still under construction and is scheduled to be finished this June. To find out if your organization is eligible for the program, contact them at 573-751-3415.

*Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.*

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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